

4. A method as set forth in claim 1 wherein said step of engaging the patient's Adam's apple includes engaging opposite sides of the patient's Adam's apple with the positioning apparatus.

5. A method as set forth in claim 1 further including the step of determining an insertion distance which the guide rod is to be moved into the patient's trachea as a function of the distance between a portion of the positioning apparatus aligned with the patient's Adam's apple and a portion of the positioning apparatus aligned with the patient's mouth, said step of moving a guide rod relative to the positioning apparatus includes moving the guide rod through the insertion distance relative to the positioning apparatus.

6. A method as set forth in claim 1 wherein said step of moving a guide rod relative to the positioning apparatus includes moving the guide rod through a distance which is a function of a distance between a portion of the positioning apparatus aligned with the patient's Adam's apple and a portion of the positioning apparatus aligned with the patient's mouth.

7. A method as set forth in claim 1 further including the step of engaging the tracheal tube with the positioning apparatus during performance of said step of moving the tracheal tube along the guide rod.

13. A method as set forth in claim 1 wherein said step of locating a positioning apparatus relative to a patient's trachea includes moving portions of the positioning apparatus relative to each other to positions which are a function of the distance from the patient's Adam's apple to the patient's mouth, and providing a visible indication of the relative positions of the portions of the positioning apparatus, said step of moving the guide rod relative to the positioning apparatus includes moving the guide rod relative to the positioning apparatus through a distance which is a function of the relative positions of the portions of the positioning apparatus.

14. A method as set forth in claim 1 wherein said step of moving a leading end portion of the guide rod into the patient's trachea includes detecting when the leading end portion of the guide rod is in a position other than a desired position and applying force against the leading end portion of the guide rod to move the leading end portion of the guide rod toward the desired position.

15. A method as set forth in claim 1 further including the step of engaging a tongue in a mouth of the patient with a laryngoscope connected with the positioning apparatus during movement of the guide rod into the patient's trachea.

Variable	Mean	Standard Deviation	Minimum	Maximum
Age	34.5	12.5	20	65
Gender	0.5	0.5	0	1
Marital Status	0.3	0.5	0	1
Education	12.5	2.5	9	16
Income	35000	15000	10000	70000
Health	0.8	0.2	0	1
Smoking	0.2	0.4	0	1
Alcohol	0.1	0.3	0	1
Exercise	0.4	0.5	0	1
Stress	0.6	0.4	0	1
Depression	0.2	0.4	0	1
Loneliness	0.3	0.5	0	1
Life Satisfaction	0.7	0.3	0	1
Quality of Life	0.8	0.2	0	1
Overall Health	0.9	0.1	0	1

Variable	Mean	Standard Deviation	Minimum	Maximum
Age	34.5	12.5	20	65
Gender	0.5	0.5	0	1
Marital Status	0.3	0.5	0	1
Education	12.5	2.5	9	16
Income	35000	15000	10000	70000
Health	0.8	0.2	0	1
Smoking	0.2	0.4	0	1
Alcohol	0.1	0.3	0	1
Exercise	0.4	0.5	0	1
Stress	0.6	0.4	0	1
Depression	0.2	0.4	0	1
Loneliness	0.3	0.5	0	1
Life Satisfaction	0.7	0.3	0	1
Quality of Life	0.8	0.2	0	1
Overall Health	0.9	0.1	0	1

Variable	Mean	Standard Deviation	Minimum	Maximum
Age	34.5	12.5	18	65
Gender	0.5	0.5	0	1
Marital Status	0.7	0.5	0	1
Education	12.5	2.5	9	16
Income	35000	15000	10000	70000
Health	0.8	0.4	0	1
Exercise	0.3	0.5	0	1
Stress	0.6	0.5	0	1
Sleep	0.7	0.4	0	1
Diet	0.5	0.5	0	1
Smoking	0.2	0.4	0	1
Alcohol	0.1	0.3	0	1
Family Size	2.5	1.5	1	6
Work Hours	40	10	20	60
Job Satisfaction	0.6	0.5	0	1
Life Satisfaction	0.7	0.4	0	1

step of positioning one of the emitter and detector portions of the sensor assembly adjacent to the patient's Adam's apple includes positioning the detector portion of the sensor assembly adjacent to the patient's Adam's apple.

19. A method as set forth in claim 18 wherein said step of moving the emitter portion of the sensor assembly into the patient's trachea with the leading end portion of the guide rod includes moving a magnet into the patient's trachea with the leading end portion of the guide rod, said step of positioning the detector portion of the sensor assembly adjacent to the patient's Adam's apple includes positioning a device which responds to a magnetic field adjacent to the patient's Adam's apple.

20. A method as set forth in claim 17 wherein said step of moving one of the emitter and detector portions of the sensor assembly into the patient's trachea with the leading end portion of the guide rod includes moving the detector portion of the sensor assembly into the patient's trachea with the leading end portion of the guide rod, said step of positioning one of the emitter and detector portions of the sensor assembly adjacent to the patient's Adam's apple includes positioning the emitter portion of the sensor assembly adjacent to the patient's Adam's Apple.

21. A method as set forth in claim 20 wherein said step of moving the detector portion of the sensor assembly

end portion of the guide rod by observing light emitted from the light source from outside of the patient's body.

25. A method as set forth in claim 1 wherein said step of moving the tracheal tube along the guide rod into the patient's trachea is at least partially performed with the guide rod extending into a passage in the tracheal tube.

26. A method as set forth in claim 1 further including the step of providing a display illustrating a position of the leading end portion of the guide rod relative to the patient's trachea during at least a portion of said step of moving the guide rod relative to the positioning apparatus.

27. A method as set forth in claim 1 further including the step of providing a display illustrating a position of a leading end portion of the tracheal tube relative to the patient's trachea during at least a portion of said step of moving the tracheal tube along the guide rod into the patient's trachea.

28. A method as set forth in claim 1 further including the steps of providing a display illustrating a position of the leading end portion of the guide rod relative to the patient's trachea and a position of a leading end portion of the tracheal tube relative to the patient's trachea during at least a portion of said step of moving the tracheal tube along the guide rod into the patient's trachea.

Table 1. Demographic characteristics of the study population	
Age (years)	65.4 ± 1.2
Gender	
Male	50.0
Female	50.0
Education (years)	12.5 ± 0.5
Marital status	
Married	60.0
Single	40.0
Occupation	
Retired	70.0
Unemployed	30.0
Income (USD/month)	1,200 ± 200
Health status	
Good	60.0
Poor	40.0
Smoking status	
Smoker	30.0
Non-smoker	70.0
Alcohol consumption	
Drinker	20.0
Non-drinker	80.0
Comorbidities	
Hypertension	45.0
Diabetes	35.0
Heart disease	25.0
Stroke	15.0
Arthritis	40.0
Chronic kidney disease	10.0
Chronic liver disease	5.0
Chronic lung disease	10.0
Chronic pain	30.0
Depression	20.0
Anxiety	15.0
Substance use	
Alcohol	20.0
Drugs	10.0
Tobacco	30.0
Other	5.0
Family size	3.5 ± 0.5
Number of children	2.5 ± 0.5
Number of grandchildren	1.5 ± 0.5
Number of siblings	1.0 ± 0.5
Number of nieces/nephews	1.0 ± 0.5
Number of friends	5.0 ± 1.0
Number of neighbors	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of community members	20.0 ± 5.0
Number of religious members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of political members	5.0 ± 1.0
Number of cultural members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of social members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of economic members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of environmental members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of health members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of education members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of culture members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of religion members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of politics members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of economy members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of environment members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of health members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of education members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of culture members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of religion members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of politics members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of economy members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of environment members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of health members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of education members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of culture members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of religion members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of politics members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of economy members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of environment members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of health members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of education members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of culture members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of religion members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of politics members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of economy members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of environment members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of health members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of education members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of culture members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of religion members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of politics members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of economy members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of environment members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of health members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of education members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of culture members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of religion members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of politics members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of economy members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of environment members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of health members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of education members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of culture members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of religion members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of politics members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of economy members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of environment members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of health members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of education members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of culture members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of religion members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of politics members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of economy members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of environment members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of health members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of education members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of culture members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of religion members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of politics members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of economy members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of environment members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of health members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of education members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of culture members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of religion members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of politics members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of economy members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of environment members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of health members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of education members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of culture members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of religion members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of politics members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of economy members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of environment members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of health members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of education members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of culture members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of religion members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of politics members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of economy members	10.0 ± 2.0
Number of environment members	10.0 ± 2.0</

30. A method as set forth in claim 29 wherein said step of moving one of the emitter and detector portions of the sensor assembly into the patient's trachea with the leading end portion of the tracheal tube includes moving the emitter portion of the sensor assembly into the patient's trachea with the leading end portion of the tracheal tube, said step of positioning one of the emitter and detector portions of the sensor assembly adjacent to the patient's Adam's apple includes positioning the detector portion of the sensor assembly adjacent to the patient's Adam's apple.

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the emitter portion of the sensor assembly adjacent to the patient's Adam's apple includes positioning a magnet adjacent to the patient's Adam's apple.

34. A method as set forth in claim 1 wherein said step of moving a tracheal tube into the patient's trachea includes moving a plurality of expandable elements into the patient's trachea with the tracheal tube and expanding at least one of the plurality of expandable elements as the leading end portion of the tracheal tube is moved relative to the patient's trachea.

35. A method as set forth in claim 1 wherein said step of moving the tracheal tube into the patient's trachea includes steering the leading end portion of the guide rod by expanding an expandable element connected with the leading end portion of the tracheal tube.

36. A method as set forth in claim 1 wherein said step of moving a tracheal tube into the patient's trachea includes moving a light source with the leading end portion of the tracheal tube and detecting when the light source is in a position corresponding to a desired position of the leading end portion of the tracheal tube by observing light emitted from the light source from outside of the patient's body.

45. A method as set forth in claim 37 further including the step of transmitting an image from a leading end portion of the guide rod to a location outside of the patient to facilitate visualization of tissue disposed in the patient's body adjacent to the leading end portion of the guide rod.

46. A method set forth in claim 37 further including the steps of providing a sensor assembly having an emitter portion which provides an output and a detector portion which responds to the output from the emitter portion, moving one of the emitter and detector portions of the sensor assembly into the patient's trachea with the leading end portion of the guide rod as the guide rod moves into the patient's trachea, positioning one of the emitter and detector portions of the sensor assembly adjacent to the patient's Adam's apple at a location outside of the patient's body, and determining when the leading end portion of the guide rod is in a desired position relative to the patient's trachea as a function of a response from the detector portion of the sensor assembly during movement of the guide rod into the patient's trachea.

47. A method as set forth in claim 46 wherein said step of moving one of the emitter and detector portions of the sensor assembly into the patient's trachea with the leading end portion of the guide rod includes moving the emitter portion of the sensor assembly into the patient's trachea with the leading end portion of the guide rod, said

48. A method as set forth in claim 47 wherein said step of moving the emitter portion of the sensor assembly into the patient's trachea with the leading end portion of the guide rod includes moving a magnet into the patient's trachea with the leading end portion of the guide rod, said step of positioning the detector portion of the sensor assembly adjacent to the patient's Adam's apple includes positioning a device which responds to a magnetic field adjacent to the patient's Adam's apple.

50. A method as set forth in claim 49 wherein said step of moving the detector portion of the sensor assembly

into the patient's trachea with the leading end portion of the guide rod includes moving a device which responds to magnetic field into the patient's trachea with the leading end portion of the guide rod, said step of positioning the emitter portion of the sensor assembly adjacent to the patient's Adam's apple includes positioning a magnet adjacent to the patient's Adam's apple.

51. A method of tracheal intubation, said method comprising the steps of locating a positioning apparatus relative to a patient's trachea by engaging the patient's Adam's apple with the positioning apparatus, and moving a tracheal tube through the patient's mouth and at least into the patient's pharynx, said step of moving the tracheal tube through the patient's mouth into the patient's pharynx includes guiding movement of the tracheal tube with the positioning apparatus while the positioning apparatus is in engagement with the patient's Adam's apple.

52. A method as set forth in claim 51 further including the steps of moving a leading end portion of a flexible guide rod away from a leading end portion of the tracheal tube and, thereafter, moving the tracheal tube along the guide rod in the patient's trachea.

53. A method as set forth in claim 52 further including the step of providing an indication of the magnitude of the distance between the patient's Adam's apple and the

patient's mouth with the positioning apparatus, said step of moving a leading end portion of the guide rod away from the leading end portion of the tracheal tube includes moving the guide rod through a distance which is a function of the indication provided by the positioning apparatus.

54. A method as set forth in claim 52 further including the step of attracting the leading end portion of the guide rod with a magnetic field during performance of said step of moving the guide rod away from a leading end portion of the tracheal tube.

55. A method as set forth in claim 52 further including the step of separating the flexible guide rod from the tracheal tube while maintaining a portion of the tracheal tube in the patient's trachea.

56. A method as set forth in claim 52 wherein said step of engaging the patient's Adam's apple with the positioning apparatus includes engaging opposite sides of the patient's Adam's apple with the positioning apparatus.

57. A method as set forth in claim 52 wherein said step of moving the leading end portion of the guide rod away from the leading end portion of the tracheal tube includes sliding the guide along the tracheal tube while the tracheal tube is held in a desired position relative to the patient's trachea by the positioning apparatus.

58. A method as set forth in claim 52 wherein said step of moving a leading end portion of the guide rod away from a leading end portion of the tracheal tube is performed with a portion of the guide rod enclosed by the tracheal tube.

59. A method as set forth in claim 51 wherein said step of moving the tracheal tube at least into the patient's pharynx includes moving a leading end portion of the tracheal tube into the patient's trachea, detecting when the leading end portion of the tracheal tube is in a position other than a desired position, and applying force against the leading end portion of the tracheal tube to move the leading end portion of the tracheal tube toward the desired position.

60. A method as set forth in claim 51 further including the step of transmitting an image from the leading end portion of the tracheal tube to a location outside of the patient to facilitate visualization of tissue disposed in the patient's body adjacent to the leading end portion of the tracheal tube.

61. A method set forth in claim 51 further including the steps of providing a sensor assembly having an emitter portion which provides an output and a detector portion which responds to the output from the emitter portion, moving one of the emitter and detector portions of the

62. A method as set forth in claim 61 wherein said step of moving one of the emitter and detector portions of the sensor assembly into the patient's trachea with the leading end portion of the tracheal tube includes moving the emitter portion of the sensor assembly into the patient's trachea with the leading end portion of the tracheal tube, said step of positioning one of the emitter and detector portions of the sensor assembly adjacent to the patient's Adam's apple includes positioning the detector portion of the sensor assembly adjacent to the patient's Adam's apple.

63. A method as set forth in claim 62 wherein said step of moving the emitter portion of the sensor assembly into the patient's trachea with the leading end portion of the tracheal tube includes moving a magnet into the patient's trachea with the leading end portion of the tracheal tube, said step of positioning the detector portion of the sensor assembly adjacent to the patient's Adam's

64. A method as set forth in claim 61 wherein said step of moving one of the emitter and detector portions of the sensor assembly into the patient's trachea with the leading end portion of the tracheal tube includes moving the detector portion of the sensor assembly into the patient's trachea with the leading end portion of the tracheal tube, said step of positioning one of the emitter and detector portions of the sensor assembly adjacent to the patient's Adam's apple includes positioning the emitter portion of the sensor assembly adjacent to the patient's Adam's Apple.

66. A method as set forth in claim 51 wherein said step of moving the tracheal tube into the patient's pharynx includes moving a leading end portion of the tracheal tube,

into the patient's trachea, moving a plurality of expandable elements into the patient's trachea with the leading end portion of the tracheal tube, and expanding at least one of the plurality of expandable elements as the leading end portion of the tracheal tube is moved relative to the patient's trachea.

67. A method as set forth in claim 51 wherein said step of moving the tracheal tube into the patient's pharynx includes moving a leading end portion of the tracheal tube into the patient's trachea and steering the leading end portion of the tracheal tube by expanding an expandable element connected with the leading end portion of the tracheal tube.

68. A method as set forth in claim 51 wherein said step of moving a tracheal tube into the patients pharynx includes moving a leading end portion of the tracheal tube into the patient's trachea, moving a light source into the patient's trachea with the leading end portion of the tracheal tube, and detecting when the light source is in a position corresponding to a desired position of the leading end portion of the tracheal tube by observing light emitted from the light source from outside of the patient's body.

69. A method of tracheal intubation, said method comprising the steps of moving a flexible guide rod into the patient's trachea, said step of moving a guide rod into the

70. A method as set forth in claim 69 wherein said step of moving a flexible guide rod into the patient's trachea further includes moving the magnetic field away from the patient's larynx in a direction toward the patient's bronchial tubes while attracting the leading end portion of the guide rod.

71. A method as set forth in claim 69 further including the step of locating a positioning apparatus relative to the patient's trachea by engaging the patient's Adam's apple with the positioning apparatus, said step of moving a guide rod into the patient's trachea includes moving the guide rod along a surface which is positioned relative to the patient's trachea by the positioning apparatus.

72. A method as set forth in claim 71 wherein said step of sliding the guide rod along a surface which is positioned relative to the patient's trachea by the positioning apparatus includes moving the guide rod through a guide member into the patient's trachea, said method further includes separating the guide member from the guide rod while maintaining the guide rod in the

disposed in engagement with the portion of the patient's body spaced from the patient's head, and moving a tracheal tube along the guide rod into the patient's trachea.

75. A method as set forth in claim 74 wherein said step of moving a guide rod relative to the positioning apparatus and into the patient's trachea includes moving at least a portion of the guide rod through a portion of the positioning apparatus which is aligned with the patient's mouth.

76. A method as set forth in claim 74 wherein said step of locating the positioning apparatus relative to the patient's trachea includes varying the spatial relationship between first and second portions of the positioning apparatus, said step of determining a distance through which the guide rod is to be moved relative to the patient's trachea includes determining the distance as a function of the spatial relationship between the first and second portions of the positioning apparatus after the positioning apparatus has been located relative to the patient's body and when the positioning apparatus is disposed in engagement with the portion of the patient's body spaced from the patient's head.

77. A method as set forth in claim 74 further including the step of disengaging the positioning apparatus from the guide rod prior to performance of said step of moving a

tracheal tube along the guide rod into the patient's trachea, said step of disengaging the positioning apparatus from the guide rod is performed with a portion of the guide rod in the patient's trachea.

78. A method as set forth in claim 74 wherein said step of moving a guide rod relative to the positioning apparatus includes sliding the guide rod along a guide tube, said method further including separating the guide tube from the guide rod while the leading end portion of the guide rod is in the patient's trachea, and, thereafter, performing said step of moving a tracheal tube along the guide rod into the patient's trachea with the tracheal tube spaced from the positioning apparatus.

79. A method as set forth in claim 74 wherein said step of engaging a portion of the patient's body spaced from the patient's head with the positioning apparatus includes engaging the patient's Adam's apple with the positioning apparatus to locate one of the locations on the positioning apparatus relative to the patient's body.

80. A method as set forth in claim 74 further including the step of engaging the tracheal tube with a portion of the positioning apparatus aligned with the patient's mouth during performance of said step of moving the tracheal tube along the guide rod, said step of moving the tracheal tube along the guide rod being performed with the

positioning apparatus disposed in engagement with the portion of the patient's body spaced from the patient's head.

81. A method as set forth in claim 74 wherein said step of moving the guide rod relative to the positioning apparatus is performed with a portion of the guide rod disposed in the patient's body enclosed by the tracheal tube.

82. A method as set forth in claim 74 wherein the positioning apparatus is disposed outside of the patient's body during performance of said step of moving the tracheal tube along the guide rod into the patient's trachea.

83. A method as set forth in claim 74 wherein the positioning apparatus is disposed outside the patient's body during performance of said step of moving a guide rod relative to the positioning apparatus.

84. A method as set forth in claim 74 further including the step of magnetically attracting a leading end portion of the guide rod with a magnet disposed outside of the patient's body during performance of said step of moving a guide rod relative to the positioning apparatus.

85. A method as set forth in claim 74 further including the step of positioning a magnet adjacent to the patient's

86. A method as set forth in claim 74 wherein said step of moving the guide rod into the patient's trachea includes detecting when a leading end portion of the guide rod is in a position other than a desired position and applying force against the leading end portion of the guide rod to move the leading end portion of the guide rod toward the desired position.

88. A method as set forth in claim 74 further including the step of transmitting an image from the leading end portion of the guide rod to a location outside of the patient to facilitate visualization of tissue disposed in the patient's body adjacent to the leading end portion of the guide rod.

89. A method set forth in claim 74 further including
the steps of providing a sensor assembly having an emitter

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the guide rod includes moving a magnet into the patient's trachea with the leading end portion of the guide rod, said step of positioning the detector portion of the sensor assembly adjacent to the patient's Adam's apple includes positioning a device which responds to a magnetic field adjacent to the patient's Adam's apple.

92. A method as set forth in claim 89 wherein said step of moving one of the emitter and detector portions of the sensor assembly into the patient's trachea with the leading end portion of the guide rod includes moving the emitter portion of the sensor assembly into the patient's trachea with the leading end portion of the guide rod, said step of positioning one of the emitter and detector portions of the sensor assembly adjacent to the patient's Adam's apple includes positioning the detector portion of the sensor assembly adjacent to the patient's Adam's apple.

93. A method as set forth in claim 92 wherein said step of moving the detector portion of the sensor assembly into the patient's trachea with the leading end portion of the guide rod includes moving a device which responds to magnetic field into the patient's trachea with the leading end portion of the guide rod, said step of positioning the emitter portion of the sensor assembly adjacent to the patient's Adam's apple includes positioning a magnet adjacent to the patient's Adam's apple.

94. A method as set forth in claim 74 wherein said step of moving a guide rod into the patient's trachea includes moving a plurality of expandable elements into the patient's trachea with the guide rod and expanding at least one of the plurality of expandable elements as the leading end portion of the guide rod is moved relative to the patient's trachea.

95. A method as set forth in claim 74 wherein said step of moving the guide rod into the patient's trachea includes steering the leading end portion of the guide rod by expanding an expandable element connected with the leading end portion of the guide rod.

96. A method as set forth in claim 74 wherein said step of moving a guide rod into the patient's trachea includes moving a light source with the leading end portion of the guide rod and detecting when the light source is in a position corresponding to a desired position of the leading end portion of the guide rod by observing light emitted from the light source from outside of the patient's body.

97. A method as set forth in claim 74 further including the step of providing a display illustrating a position of the leading end portion of the guide rod relative to the patient's trachea during at least a portion of said step of moving the guide rod relative to the positioning apparatus.

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locations adjacent to the patient's Adam's apple to locate the positioning assembly relative to the patient's trachea.

109. An apparatus as set forth in claim 107 wherein the positioning assembly includes a first section which is engagable with the patient's Adam's apple and a second section which is connected with said guide surface, said first and second sections of said positioning assembly being movable relative to each other to accommodate patients having different distances between their Adam's apple and mouth.

110. An apparatus as set forth in claim 107 further including a guide tube which is connected with said positioning assembly, said guide surface being disposed within said guide tube.

111. An apparatus as set forth in claim 107 wherein said guide surface is disposed on said positioning assembly and is engaged by the tracheal tube during movement of the tracheal tube through the patient's mouth into the patient's trachea.

112. An apparatus as set forth in claim 107 further including first indicia connected with said positioning assembly to provide an indication which is a function of a distance which the guide rod is to be moved relative to the guide surface and second indicia which is connected with

117. A method as set forth in claim 116 wherein said step of moving a guide rod into the patient's trachea includes moving at least a portion of the guide rod through a portion of the positioning apparatus which is aligned with the patient's mouth.

118. A method as set forth in claim 116 wherein said step of locating the positioning apparatus relative to the patient's trachea includes varying the spatial relationship between first and second portions of the positioning apparatus, said step of determining a position to which the guide rod is to be moved relative to the patient's trachea includes determining the position as a function of the spatial relationship between the first and second portions of the positioning apparatus after the positioning apparatus has been located relative to the patient's body and when

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the patient's body during performance of said step of moving the guide rod into the patient's trachea.

127. A method as set forth in claim 116 further including the step of positioning a magnet adjacent to the patient's Adam's apple and promoting movement of a leading end portion of the guide rod into the patient's trachea under the influence of a magnetic field emanating from the magnet during movement of the guide rod into the patient's trachea.

128. A method as set forth in claim 116 wherein said step of moving the guide rod into the patient's trachea includes detecting when a leading end portion of the guide rod is in a position other than a desired position and applying force against the leading end portion of the guide rod to move the leading end portion of the guide rod toward the desired position.

129. A method as set forth in claim 116 further including the step of engaging a tongue in a mouth of the patient with a laryngoscope connected with the positioning apparatus during movement of the guide rod into the patient's trachea.

130. A method as set forth in claim 116 further including the step of transmitting an image from a leading end portion of the guide rod to a location outside of the

patient to facilitate visualization of tissue disposed in the patient's body adjacent to the leading end portion of the guide rod.

131. A method set forth in claim 116 further including the steps of providing a sensor assembly having an emitter portion which provides an output and a detector portion which responds to the output from the emitter portion, moving one of the emitter and detector portions of the sensor assembly into the patient's trachea with a leading end portion of the guide rod as the guide rod moves into the patient's trachea, positioning one of the emitter and detector portions of the sensor assembly adjacent to the patient's Adam's apple at a location outside of the patient's body, and determining when the leading end portion of the guide rod is in a desired position relative to the patient's trachea as a function of a response from the detector portion of the sensor assembly during movement of the guide rod into the patient's trachea.

132. A method as set forth in claim 131 wherein said step of moving one of the emitter and detector portions of the sensor assembly into the patient's trachea with the leading end portion of the guide rod includes moving the emitter portion of the sensor assembly into the patient's trachea with the leading end portion of the guide rod, said step of positioning one of the emitter and detector portions of the sensor assembly adjacent to the patient's Adam's

apple includes positioning the detector portion of the sensor assembly adjacent to the patient's Adam's apple.

133. A method as set forth in claim 132 wherein said step of moving the emitter portion of the sensor assembly into the patient's trachea with the leading end portion of the guide rod includes moving a magnet into the patient's trachea with the leading end portion of the guide rod, said step of positioning the detector portion of the sensor assembly adjacent to the patient's Adam's apple includes positioning a device which responds to a magnetic field adjacent to the patient's Adam's apple.

134. A method as set forth in claim 131 wherein said step of moving one of the emitter and detector portions of the sensor assembly into the patient's trachea with the leading end portion of the guide rod includes moving the detector portion of the sensor assembly into the patient's trachea with the leading end portion of the guide rod, said step of positioning one of the emitter and detector portions of the sensor assembly adjacent to the patient's Adam's apple includes positioning the emitter portion of the sensor assembly adjacent to the patient's Adam's Apple.

135. A method as set forth in claim 134 wherein said step of moving the detector portion of the sensor assembly into the patient's trachea with the leading end portion of the guide rod includes moving a device which responds to

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magnetic fields into the patient's trachea with the leading end portion of the guide rod, said step of positioning the emitter portion of the sensor assembly adjacent to the patient's Adam's apple includes positioning a magnet adjacent to the patient's Adam's apple.

136. A method as set forth in claim 116 wherein said step of moving a guide rod into the patient's trachea includes moving a plurality of expandable elements into the patient's trachea with the guide rod and expanding at least one of the plurality of expandable elements as the leading end portion of the guide rod is moved relative to the patient's trachea.

137. A method as set forth in claim 116 wherein said step of moving the guide rod into the patient's trachea includes steering the leading end portion of the guide rod by expanding an expandable element connected with the leading end portion of the guide rod.

138. A method as set forth in claim 116 wherein said step of moving a guide rod into the patient's trachea includes moving a light source with the leading end portion of the guide rod and detecting when the light source is in a position corresponding to a desired position of the leading end portion of the guide rod by observing light emitted from the light source from outside of the patient's body.

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	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100

apparatus is performed with a portion of the guide rod enclosed by the tracheal tube.

147. A method as set forth in claim 139 wherein the positioning apparatus is disposed outside of the patient's body during performance of said step of guiding movement of the tracheal tube with the guide rod.

148. A method as set forth in claim 139 wherein the positioning apparatus is disposed outside the patient's body during performance of said step of moving a guide rod relative to the positioning apparatus.

149. A method as set forth in claim 139 further including the step of magnetically attracting the leading end portion of the guide rod with a magnet disposed outside of the patient's body during performance of said step of moving a guide rod relative to the positioning apparatus.

150. A method as set forth in claim 139 further including the step of positioning a magnet adjacent to an anterior portion of the patient's trachea and promoting movement of the leading end portion of the guide rod into the patient's trachea under the influence of a magnetic field emanating from the magnet.

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Figure 1 consists of four panels (a, b, c, d) showing the effect of the 1997-1998 El Niño on precipitation and vegetation indices. Panel (a) shows precipitation anomalies (mm) for 1997-1998, 1998-1999, and 1999-2000. Panel (b) shows the vegetation index (VI) for 1997-1998, 1998-1999, and 1999-2000. Panel (c) shows the difference in precipitation (mm) between 1997-1998 and 1998-1999, and between 1998-1999 and 1999-2000. Panel (d) shows the difference in the vegetation index (VI) between 1997-1998 and 1998-1999, and between 1998-1999 and 1999-2000. The figure includes a map of the study area in the Amazon basin and a legend for the precipitation and vegetation indices.

Figure 1 consists of three panels. The top panel is a bar chart showing precipitation anomalies (mm) for the 1997-1998 season across 10 regions. The middle panel is a line graph showing precipitation anomalies (mm) for the 1998-1999 season across 10 regions. The bottom panel is a bar chart showing precipitation anomalies (mm) for the 1998-1999 season across 10 regions.

Figure 1 consists of three panels. The top panel is a bar chart showing precipitation anomalies (mm) for the 1997-1998 season across 10 regions. The middle panel is a line graph showing precipitation anomalies (mm) for the 1998-1999 season across 10 regions. The bottom panel is a bar chart showing precipitation anomalies (mm) for the 1998-1999 season across 10 regions.

Figure 1 consists of three panels. The top panel is a bar chart showing precipitation anomalies (mm) for the 1997-1998 season across 10 regions. The middle panel is a line graph showing precipitation anomalies (mm) for the 1998-1999 season across 10 regions. The bottom panel is a bar chart showing precipitation anomalies (mm) for the 1998-1999 season across 10 regions.

tracheal tube into the patient's trachea includes guiding movement of the tracheal tube with the positioning apparatus.

166. A method as set forth in claim 160 further including the step of positioning a guide rod relative to the patient's respiratory system with the guide rod extending from the patient's pharynx, through the patient's larynx and into the patient's trachea, said step of moving a tracheal tube along an insertion path includes sliding the tracheal tube along the guide rod.

167. A method as set forth in claim 160 further including the steps of locating a positioning apparatus relative to the patient's trachea by engaging the patient's Adam's apple with the positioning apparatus, moving a guide rod relative to the positioning apparatus along the insertion path until a leading end portion of the guide rod has moved into the patient's trachea, said step of moving the guide rod relative to the positioning apparatus being performed with the positioning apparatus in engagement with the patient's Adam's apple, said step of moving the tracheal tube along the insertion path includes sliding the tracheal tube along the guide rod.

168. A method as set forth in claim 160 further including the step of providing a display illustrating a position of a leading end portion of the tracheal tube

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Variable	Mean	SD	Min	Max
Age	34.5	10.2	22	55
Gender	0.5	0.5	0	1
Marital status	0.6	0.5	0	1
Education	12.5	1.5	10	15
Income	1500	500	1000	2500
Health status	0.8	0.2	0	1
Smoking status	0.3	0.5	0	1
Alcohol consumption	0.2	0.4	0	1
Exercise frequency	0.5	0.5	0	1
Stress level	0.7	0.3	0	1
Life satisfaction	0.6	0.4	0	1
Work satisfaction	0.5	0.5	0	1
Family satisfaction	0.6	0.4	0	1
Community satisfaction	0.5	0.5	0	1
Overall satisfaction	0.5	0.5	0	1

Variable	Mean	SD	Min	Max
Age	34.5	10.2	22	55
Gender	0.5	0.5	0	1
Marital status	0.6	0.5	0	1
Education	12.5	1.5	10	15
Income	1500	500	1000	2500
Health status	0.8	0.2	0	1
Smoking status	0.3	0.5	0	1
Alcohol consumption	0.2	0.4	0	1
Exercise frequency	0.5	0.5	0	1
Stress level	0.7	0.3	0	1
Depression score	0.4	0.4	0	1
Life satisfaction	0.6	0.3	0	1
Work satisfaction	0.5	0.4	0	1
Family satisfaction	0.6	0.3	0	1
Community satisfaction	0.5	0.4	0	1
Overall well-being	0.6	0.3	0	1

Variable	Mean	SD	Min	Max
Age	34.5	10.2	21	55
Gender	0.5	0.5	0	1
Marital status	0.6	0.5	0	1
Education	12.5	1.5	9	16
Income	15.2	5.8	10	25
Health status	0.8	0.2	0	1
Employment status	0.7	0.4	0	1
Family size	3.2	1.1	1	6
Home ownership	0.9	0.1	0	1
Auto ownership	0.8	0.2	0	1
Life satisfaction	4.2	1.5	1	7
Health satisfaction	5.1	1.2	1	7
Financial satisfaction	3.8	1.8	1	7
Relationship satisfaction	4.5	1.4	1	7
Community satisfaction	4.0	1.6	1	7
Overall life satisfaction	4.3	1.5	1	7

Variable	Mean	SD	Min	Max
Age	34.5	10.2	21	55
Gender	0.5	0.5	0	1
Marital status	0.6	0.5	0	1
Education	12.5	1.5	9	16
Income	1500	500	500	3000
Health status	0.8	0.2	0	1
Smoking status	0.3	0.5	0	1
Alcohol consumption	0.2	0.4	0	1
Exercise frequency	0.5	0.5	0	1
Stress level	0.7	0.3	0	1
Life satisfaction	0.6	0.4	0	1
Work-life balance	0.5	0.5	0	1
Family support	0.7	0.3	0	1
Community involvement	0.4	0.5	0	1
Healthcare access	0.9	0.1	0	1
Quality of life	0.8	0.2	0	1
Overall well-being	0.7	0.3	0	1

Variable	Mean	SD	Min	Max
Age	34.5	10.2	22	55
Gender	0.5	0.5	0	1
Marital status	0.6	0.5	0	1
Education	12.5	1.5	10	15
Income	1500	500	1000	2500
Health status	0.8	0.2	0	1
Smoking status	0.3	0.5	0	1
Alcohol consumption	0.2	0.4	0	1
Exercise frequency	0.5	0.5	0	1
Stress level	0.7	0.3	0	1
Life satisfaction	0.6	0.4	0	1
Work satisfaction	0.5	0.5	0	1
Family satisfaction	0.6	0.4	0	1
Community satisfaction	0.5	0.5	0	1
Overall well-being	0.6	0.3	0	1

an array adjacent to an outer surface of a patient's neck, moving a tracheal tube relative to the patient's respiratory system along an insertion path which extends from the patient's pharynx, through the patient's larynx and into the patient's trachea, emitting an output from the emitters of the plurality of emitters as the tracheal tube moves along the insertion path, detecting the output emitted by at least some of the emitters with a detector connected with a leading end portion of the tracheal tube as the tracheal tube moves along the insertion path, and determining the position of the leading end portion of the tracheal tube along the insertion path as a function of the output from the plurality of emitters detected by the detector.

182. A method as set forth in claim 181 wherein said step of positioning a plurality of emitters in an array adjacent to an outer surface of the patient's neck includes positioning a plurality of magnets which emit magnetic fields adjacent to the outer surface of the patient's neck.

183. A method as set forth in claim 181 further including the steps of locating a positioning apparatus relative to the patient's trachea, moving a guide rod relative to the patient's respiratory system along an insertion path which extends from the patient's pharynx, through the patient's larynx and into the patient's trachea, detecting the output emitted by at least some of the emitters with a detector connected with a leading end

portion of the guide rod as the guide rod moves along the insertion path, and determining the position of the leading end portion of the guide rod along the insertion path as a function of the output emitted from the plurality of emitters detected by the detector, said step of moving the tracheal tube relative to the patient's respiratory system along the insertion path includes moving the tracheal tube along the guide rod.

185. A method as set forth in claim 184 wherein said step positioning a plurality of emitters in an array adjacent to an outer surface of the patient's neck includes positioning the emitters adjacent to the patient's Adam's apple.

187. A method as set forth in claim 183 further including the step of providing a display illustrating a position of the leading end portion of the guide rod relative to the patient's trachea during at least a portion of said step of moving the guide rod relative to the patient's respiratory system.

188. A method as set forth in claim 181 further including the step of providing a display illustrating a position of a leading end portion of the tracheal tube relative to the patient's trachea during at least a portion of said step of moving the tracheal tube relative to the patient's respiratory system.

189. A method of tracheal intubation, said method comprising the steps of positioning an emitter which provides an output adjacent to an outer surface of a patient's neck, moving a guide rod relative to a patient's respiratory system along an insertion path which extends into the patient's trachea, said step of moving the guide rod along the insertion path being performed with a detector connected with a leading end portion of the guide rod, detecting the output emitted from the emitter with the detector as the guide rod moves along the insertion path, interrupting movement of the guide rod along the insertion path in response to the detector detecting that the leading end portion of the guide rod is in a desired position relative to the patient's trachea, moving a tracheal tube along the

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190. A method as set forth in claim 189 further including the step of engaging the patient's Adam's apple with a positioning apparatus, said step of moving the guide rod along the insertion path being performed while positioning a portion of the guide rod relative to the insertion path with the positioning apparatus.

192. A method of tracheal intubation, said method comprising the steps of positioning a detector adjacent to an outer surface of a patient's neck, moving a guide rod relative to a patient's respiratory system along an insertion

path which extends into the patient's trachea, said step of moving the guide rod along the insertion path being performed with an emitter which provides an output connected with a leading end portion of the guide rod, detecting the output emitted from the emitter with the detector as the guide rod moves along the insertion path, interrupting movement of the guide rod along the insertion path in response to the detector detecting that the leading end portion of the guide rod is in a desired position relative to the patient's trachea, moving a tracheal tube along the guide rod, said step of moving the tracheal tube along the guide rod being performed with an emitter which provides an output connected with a leading end portion of the tracheal tube, detecting the output emitted from the emitter with the detector as the tracheal tube moves along the guide rod, and interrupting movement of the tracheal tube along the guide rod in response to the detector detecting that the leading end portion of the tracheal tube is in a desired position relative to the patient's trachea.

193. A method as set forth in claim 192 further including the step of engaging the patient's Adam's apple with a positioning apparatus, said step of moving the guide rod along the insertion path being performed while positioning a portion of the guide rod relative to the insertion path with the positioning apparatus.

194. A method as set forth in claim 193 further including the step of separating the guide rod from the positioning apparatus prior to performing the step of moving the tracheal tube along the guide rod.

195. An apparatus for use in tracheal intubation, said apparatus comprising a tracheal tube, and a transmitter connected with said tracheal tube and operable to transmit an image of body tissue adjacent to a leading end portion of said tracheal tube to a location outside of the patient's body to facilitate visualization of body tissue disposed adjacent to a leading end portion of said tracheal tube.

196. An apparatus as set forth in claim 195 wherein said transmitter includes a first conduit which conducts light from a source outside of the patient's body to the leading end portion of said tracheal tube and a second conduit which conducts light from the leading end portion of said tracheal tube to a location outside of the patient's body.

197. An apparatus as set forth in claim 195 further including an expandable element connected with the leading end portion of said tracheal tube, said expandable element being expandable in the patient's body to apply force against the leading end portion of said tracheal tube to alter a course along which the leading end portion of said tracheal tube is moving relative to the patient's body.

201. An apparatus as set forth in claim 199 wherein said sensor means includes an emitter which provides an output and a detector which responds to the output from said emitter, one of said emitter and detector being connected with the leading end portion of said tracheal tube for movement therewith along the insertion path, the other of said emitter and detector being disposed adjacent to an outer surface of the neck of the patient during movement of said tracheal tube along the insertion path.

202. An apparatus for use in tracheal intubation of a patient, said apparatus comprising a tracheal tube which is moveable along an insertion path into a patient's trachea, an emitter which provides an output, and a detector which responds to the output from said emitter, a first one of said emitter and said detector being connected with said tracheal tube for movement therewith along the inserting path, a second one of said emitter and said detector being disposed adjacent to an outer surface of the patient's neck during movement of said tracheal tube along the insertion path.

203. An apparatus as set forth in claim 202 wherein said emitter includes a magnet which emits a magnetic field and said detector includes a device which responds to a magnetic field.

209. An apparatus as set forth in claim 208 further including steering means connected with the leading end portion of said tracheal tube for applying force against the leading end portion of said tracheal tube during movement of said tracheal tube along the insertion path.

211. An apparatus as set forth in claim 208 wherein said emitter includes a magnet which emits a magnetic field, each of said detectors of said plurality of detectors being responsive to the magnetic field emitted by said magnet.

212. An apparatus as set forth in claim 208 further including a positioning assembly which is engagable with the patient's Adam's apple to locate said positioning assembly, and a guide surface connected with said positioning assembly to guide movement of said tracheal tube relative to the patient's body.

213. An apparatus for use in tracheal intubation of a patient, said apparatus comprising a tracheal tube which is movable along an insertion path into a patient's trachea, a detector connected with a leading end portion of said tracheal tube for movement therewith along the insertion path, and a plurality of emitters disposed in an array adjacent to the patient's Adam's apple, each emitter of said plurality of emitters being effective to provide an output which is detectable by said detector, and means connected with said detector for determining the position of the leading end portion of said tracheal tube as a function of the output from said plurality of emitters detected by said detector during movement of said tracheal tube along the insertion path.

214. An apparatus as set forth in claim 213 further including steering means connected with the leading end portion of said tracheal tube for applying force against the leading end portion of said tracheal tube during movement of said tracheal tube along the insertion path.

215. An apparatus as set forth in claim 213 further including a plurality of expandable elements connected with the leading end portion of said tracheal tube and means for conducting fluid pressure along said tracheal tube to said expandable elements to effect expansion of said expandable elements.

216. An apparatus as set forth in claim 213 further including a positioning assembly which is engagable with the patient's Adam's apple to locate said positioning assembly, and a guide surface connected with said positioning assembly to guide movement of said tracheal tube relative to the patient's body.

217. An apparatus as set forth in claim 213 wherein each emitter of said plurality of emitters includes a magnet which emits a magnetic field, said detectors being responsive to the magnetic field emitted by said magnet of each of said emitters of said plurality of emitters.

218. An apparatus for use in tracheal intubation of a patient, said apparatus comprising a tracheal tube, and a plurality of expandable elements connected with a leading end portion of said tracheal tube, said expandable elements being expandable in the patient's body to apply force against the leading end portion of said tracheal tube to alter a course along which the leading end portion of said tracheal tube is moving relative to the patient's body.

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220. An apparatus as set forth in claim 218 wherein said expandable elements are expandable under the influence of fluid pressure, a plurality of conduits extend along said tracheal tube to said expandable elements to conduct fluid pressure to said expandable elements.

222. An apparatus as set forth in claim 218 further including a plurality of light sources disposed in an array on the leading end portion of the tracheal tube to illuminate body tissue adjacent to the leading end portion of the tracheal tube with an intensity which enables the location of the leading end portion of the tracheal tube to be visually located by an observer.

223. A method of tracheal intubation, said method comprising the steps of locating a positioning apparatus

relative to a patient's trachea by engaging the patient's Adam's apple with the positioning apparatus, providing a sensor system having a first portion, a second portion and a third portion, positioning the first portion of the sensor system adjacent to the patient's Adam's apple, moving a guide rod relative to the positioning apparatus into the patient's respiratory system along an insertion path with the second portion of the sensor system connected with a leading end portion of the guide rod, said step of moving the guide rod relative to the positioning apparatus being performed with the positioning apparatus in engagement with the patient's Adam's apple, determining when the leading end portion of the guide rod is in a desired position relative to the patient's trachea as a function of cooperation between the first portion of the sensor system positioned adjacent to the patient's Adam's apple and the second portion of the sensor system connected with the leading end portion of the guide rod, interrupting movement of the guide rod relative to the positioning apparatus in response to determining that the leading end portion of the guide rod is in the desired position relative to the patient's trachea, thereafter, disengaging the positioning apparatus from the guide rod, moving a tracheal tube along the guide rod into the patient's trachea with the third portion of the sensor system connected with a leading end portion of the tracheal tube, determining when the leading end portion of the tracheal tube is in a desired

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99
0	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99

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226. A method as set forth in claim 225 wherein said step of moving an elongated member into the patient's body includes moving at least a portion of the elongated member through a portion of the positioning apparatus which is aligned with an opening in the patient's body.

228. A method as set forth in claim 225 further including the step of disengaging the positioning apparatus from the elongated member prior to performance of said step of performing a procedure in the patient's body, said

portion of the patient's body and promoting movement of a leading end portion of the elongated member into the patient's body under the influence of a magnetic field emanating from the magnet during movement of the guide rod into the patient's body.

233. A method as set forth in claim 225 wherein said step of moving the elongated member into the patient's body includes detecting when a leading end portion of the elongated member is in a position other than a desired position and applying force against the leading end portion of the elongated member to move the leading end portion of the elongated member toward the desired position.

234. A method as set forth in claim 225 further including the step of transmitting an image from a leading end portion of the elongated member to a location outside of the patient to facilitate visualization of tissue disposed in the patient's body adjacent to the leading end portion of the elongated member.

235. A method set forth in claim 225 further including the steps of providing a sensor assembly having an emitter portion which provides an output and a detector portion which responds to the output from the emitter portion, moving one of the emitter and detector portions of the sensor assembly into the patient's body with a leading end portion of the elongated member as the elongated member

236. A method as set forth in claim 235 wherein said step of moving one of the emitter and detector portions of the sensor assembly into the patient's body with the leading end portion of the elongated member includes moving the emitter portion of the sensor assembly into the patient's body with the leading end portion of the elongated member, said step of positioning one of the emitter and detector portions of the sensor assembly adjacent to the portion of the patient's body engaged by the positioning apparatus includes positioning the detector portion of the sensor assembly adjacent to the portion of the patient's body engaged by the positioning apparatus.

237. A method as set forth in claim 236 wherein said step of moving the emitter portion of the sensor assembly into the patient's body with the leading end portion of the elongated member includes moving a magnet into the patient's body with the leading end portion of the elongated

member, said step of positioning the detector portion of the sensor assembly adjacent to the portion of the patient's body engaged by the positioning apparatus includes positioning a device which responds to a magnetic field adjacent to the patient's Adam's apple.

238. A method as set forth in claim 235 wherein said step of moving one of the emitter and detector portions of the sensor assembly into the patient's body with the leading end portion of the elongated member includes moving the detector portion of the sensor assembly into the patient's body with the leading end portion of the elongated member, said step of positioning one of the emitter and detector portions of the sensor assembly adjacent to the portion of the patient's body engaged by the positioning apparatus includes positioning the emitter portion of the sensor assembly adjacent to the portion of the patient's body engaged by the positioning apparatus.

239. A method as set forth in claim 238 wherein said step of moving the detector portion of the sensor assembly into the patient's body with the leading end portion of the elongated member includes moving a device which responds to magnetic fields into the patient's body with the leading end portion of the elongated member, said step of positioning the emitter portion of the sensor assembly adjacent to the portion of the patient's body includes

240. A method as set forth in claim 225 wherein said step of moving an elongated member into the patient's body includes moving a plurality of expandable elements into the patient's body with the elongated member and expanding at least one of the plurality of expandable elements as the leading end portion of the elongated member is moved relative to the patient's body.

242. A method as set forth in claim 225 wherein said step of moving an elongated member into the patient's trachea includes moving a light source with the leading end portion of the elongated member and detecting when the light source is in a position corresponding to a desired position of the leading end portion of the elongated member by observing light emitted from the light source from outside of the patient's body.